

Joint CT Education Committee

Support: SB 948, SB 949, & SB 886

Equitable education funding for all public school students, including schools of choice

March 3, 2021

Greetings Senator McCrory, Representative Sanchez, and Members of the Education Committee,

To see the world as it is with no filter is a powerful way of changing the rotation of the world. To see the demons roaming freely and wildly, to see the corpses hidden under the carpet, to even feel the tortured souls is all a step; but it's what you do about it that truly creates an impact. That is what Common Ground High School teaches you to do.

My name is Darlenne Cazarin Berrios and I am a senior at Common Ground High School in New Haven. Common Ground is a place where it not only teaches you the basic English, Science, Math, and Social Studies, but also teaches you how you can make a change. How to advocate and create a vision for not only yourself, but for your community. It is the vision and advocacy that makes the sun shine brighter and the stars dance under the moonlight. With no voice or vision where would the world be today? If all the people shut their colored eyes tightly and locked their brain away as storage the world would be madness. No voice to attack the evil, no brain to create an improved future.

Common Ground has pushed me to discover myself and be the best me I can be. It encourages me to embrace who I am, to know when to laugh when I make a mistake, and to work harder everyday. It is a place that gives every student a platform and opportunities to this day. Common Ground is a unified and diverse community as well.

Common Ground has given me the leadership skills to change the universe and I ask that you help make sure all Common Ground High School students continue to have this same opportunity. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Darlenne Cazarin Berrios
Student
Common Ground High School
385 Springside Avenue
New Haven, CT 06515